

CLAIMS

1. A method for inputting a piece of information, including a mnemonic device, on a numeric keypad wherein the spatial arrangement of the input is recorded.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the numeric keypad includes any one of a telephone keypad layout, a calculator keypad layout and a computer keyboard's numeric keys array.
3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein the numeric keypad is provided with a mode for entering alphanumeric characters according to the following table in addition to the numeric mode for generating dual tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signal.

		Numeric keys								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No. of presses	1		A	D	G	J	M	P	T	W
	2		B	E	H	K	N	Q	U	X
	3		C	F	I	L	O	R	V	Y
	4							S		Z

4. A method according to Claim 2 wherein any one of the numeric keypad of the calculator and computer keyboard's numeric keys array includes a user-executable program enabling the layout to be changed to that of a telephone keypad layout.
5. A method according to Claim 2 wherein the numeric keypad is provided with a mode for entering radicals of an East

Asian language script, including any one of Chinese, Japanese and Korean, in addition to the numeric mode for generating DTMF signal.

6. A method for generating a mnemonic device from a list of keywords to be memorised and inputting said generated mnemonic device on a numeric keypad wherein the spatial arrangement of the input is recorded.

7. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mnemonic device is generated by the steps of:

- (i) arranging the keywords to be memorised in a list;
- (ii) short-listing said keyword list by the first alphabet of each keyword;
- (iii) rearranging said first alphabets to combine in different permutations;
- (iv) choosing at least one combination of the alphabets that forms a word meaningful to a user;
- (v) said user inputs said word onto a numeric keypad and record the spatial arrangement of the input.

8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the word formed of the alphabets' combination includes an acronym.

9. A method according to Claim 7 wherein a plurality of the alphabets' combination comprises words and a word most meaningful to the user is chosen.

10. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the list of words formed of the permutation of alphabets is crosschecked against a database of dictionary words whereby words having meaning are short-listed for the user to choose.

11. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the list of words formed of the permutation of alphabets is grouped into at least two groups to form at least two words.
12. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the mnemonic device generated in the form an acrostic.
13. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the acrostic is formed from cross-checking words formed from the permutations of the alphabets' combination against a database of acrostic words, phrases, sentences and the like.
14. A method according to any one of Claims 6 to 13 wherein the generated acrostics, including words, which are new to the database, are incorporated thereinto, hence expanding said database for future crosschecking.
15. A method according to any one of Claims 6 to 14, wherein the database and the crosschecking engine is implemented in a computer.
16. A method for inputting a mnemonic device on a numeric keypad wherein the spatial arrangement of the input is registered on an input record means.
17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the input record means is embodied as a sheet provided with the keypad layout upon which the spatial arrangement in which the sequence of keys being pressed in respect of the mnemonic device being inputted may be practised and recorded.
18. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the input record means is a mat provided with the keypad layout upon which the

spatial arrangement comprising the sequence of keys being pressed in respect of the mnemonic device being inputted may be performed with footsteps of the user.

19. A method according to Claim 17 wherein the sheet is comprised of a sticker dispensable from a stack in convenient size for manually registering the input's spatial arrangement and for sticking onto a page containing educational or instructional materials.

20. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the record is in the form of a computer-implemented storage which is retrievable for any one or combination of the functions of -

- output to a visual display;
- animation replay of the input's spatial arrangement;
- test a user for the correct input; and
- incorporate said record into a database, hence expanding said database for enhanced future implementation.

21. A method according to Claim 16 wherein more than one mnemonic device is generated and the spatial arrangement of inputting each of said mnemonic devices is weighted according to pre-selected input pattern preference, and wherein said mnemonic devices are then arranged according to said weighted preference for a user's selection.

21. An apparatus for implementing a method for inputting a piece of information, including a mnemonic device on a numeric keypad wherein the spatial arrangement of the input is recorded.

22. An apparatus according to Claim 21 comprising a keypad according to any one of Claims 2 - 5.

23. An apparatus according to Claim 21 including means for implementing a virtual keyboard.

24. An apparatus for implementing a method according to any one of Claims 6 - 15.

25. An article for implementing a method according to any one of Claims 16 - 20.
